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Jon McQuiston, South Subregion

Byron Sher, Senate Rules Committee Appointee

Carol Whiteside, Governor's Appointee

Steve Wilensky, South Central Subregion

Federal Liaisons (Non-voting)

Bill Haigh, Bureau of Land Management

Beth Pendleton, Forest Service

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SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY



*The Sierra Nevada Conservancy
initiates, encourages, and supports
efforts that improve the
environmental, economic and social
well-being of the Sierra Nevada
Region, its communities and the
citizens of California.*



Introduction

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC or Conservancy) is a State agency within the Resources Agency created by bipartisan legislation, co-authored by Assembly members John Laird and Tim Leslie, and signed into law by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in September 2004. It was created with the understanding that the environmental, economic and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada and its communities are closely linked and that the Region would benefit from an organization providing a strategic direction. The SNC is charged with a broad mission to be accomplished through a variety of activities in collaboration and cooperation with various partners.



Sierra Nevada Facts

One of the most significant natural and biologically diverse regions in the world, the Sierra Nevada Region constitutes about 25% of California's land area, nearly 25 million acres. The Region:

- Provides nearly 2/3 of California's most valuable commodity - water, the vast majority of which is used for residential, agricultural and environmental uses outside of the Region.
- Supports 212 communities with more than 600,000 residents, dependent upon natural resources for jobs, recreation, and community character.
- Sustains a growing tourism industry involving more than 50 million recreation visit days a year.
- Provides habitats for 66% of the bird and mammal species and about 50% of the reptile and amphibian species found in California.
- Produces from 33% to 50% of the State's annual timber supply.

Vision

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy's vision for the future is:

The magnificent Sierra Nevada Region enjoys outstanding environmental, economic and social health with vibrant communities and landscapes sustained for future generations.



Program Goals

The statute creating the SNC provides the organization with seven program goals. The SNC Strategic Plan identifies a set of actions which will serve as the foundation for development of specific strategies, approaches and projects designed to achieve these goals. The SNC will ensure that strategies and actions are integrated across program areas. The goals as listed in the statute (and do not reflect a priority order) are as follows:

- Provide increased opportunities for tourism and recreation
- Protect, conserve, and restore the Region's physical, cultural, archaeological, historical, and living resources
- Aid in the preservation of working landscapes
- Reduce the risk of natural disasters, such as wildfires
- Protect and improve water and air quality
- Assist the regional economy through the operation of the Conservancy's program
- Undertake efforts to enhance public use and enjoyment of lands owned by the public.

Guiding Principles

The SNC has developed guiding principles that serve to guide its operations now and into the future. The full set of principles, which can be found in its strategic plan, include the following objectives:

- Ensuring open, transparent and neutral processes that provide an opportunity for all to participate;
- Cooperating and collaborating with a variety of local governments, state, tribal and federal agencies and non governmental organizations;
- Encouraging and supporting community based efforts, adding value by providing funding and other assistance;
- Supporting and implementing multi-benefit activities that result in integrated environmental, economic and social benefits;
- Communicating the importance of the Region and its benefits to the citizens of California.



Grant Funding

Funding for the implementation of the Conservancy's programs is primarily provided by bond funds (Proposition 84, 2006). The SNC has been allocated \$54 million for grant distribution. The Conservancy awards grants to eligible entities supporting projects consistent with our mission and funding sources. Detailed information about eligibility and how to apply can be found on the SNC Web site at www.sierranevada.ca.gov